

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Filing Date: July 29, 1997

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wherein the intergate dielectric has a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

32.(Amended) A memory device comprising:  
a plurality of memory cells, wherein each memory cell includes a transistor comprising:  
a source region;  
a drain region;  
a channel region between the source and drain regions;  
a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator; and  
a control gate located adjacent to the floating gate and separated therefrom by an intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

39.(Amended) The memory device of claim 32 wherein [the] an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than [the] an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region of each transistor.

Please add the following new claims:

41.(New) The transistor of claim 19 wherein:  
the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;  
the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon;  
an area of a capacitor formed by the control electrode, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region; and  
the barrier energy is less than approximately 2.0 eV.

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42.(New) The memory cell of claim 29, further comprising:

- a source region in a substrate;
- a drain region in the substrate;
- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;
- an insulator between the storage electrode and the channel region, the insulator comprising a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide, and a barrier energy between the insulator and the storage electrode being less than approximately 3.3 eV;

- wherein the storage electrode comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

- wherein an area of a capacitor formed by the control electrode, the storage electrode, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the storage electrode, the insulator, and the channel region.

43.(New) A transistor comprising:

- a source region in a substrate;
- a drain region in the substrate;
- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;
- an insulator comprising a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;
- a floating gate separated from the channel region by the insulator, a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator being less than approximately 3.3 eV; and
- a control gate, separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

44.(New) The transistor of claim 43 wherein:

- the insulator comprises amorphous silicon carbide;
- the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon;

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an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region; and

the barrier energy is less than approximately 2.0 eV.

45.(New) A transistor comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, the floating gate comprising a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon and a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator being less than approximately 3.3 eV; and

a control gate, separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

46.(New) The transistor of claim 45 wherein:

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

the floating gate comprises polycrystalline or microcrystalline silicon carbide;

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region; and

the barrier energy is less than approximately 2.0 eV.

47.(New) A transistor comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

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a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator being less than approximately 3.3 eV;

a control gate, separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide; and

wherein an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

48.(New) The transistor of claim 47 wherein:

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

and

the barrier energy is less than approximately 2.0 eV.

49.(New) A transistor comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

an insulator comprising a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by the insulator; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

50.(New) The transistor of claim 49 wherein:

the insulator comprises amorphous silicon carbide;

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3

eV;

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the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

51.(New) A transistor comprising:

- a source region in a substrate;
- a drain region in the substrate;
- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;
- a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, the floating gate comprising a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and
- a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

52.(New) The transistor of claim 51 wherein:

- a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3 eV;
- the floating gate comprises polycrystalline or microcrystalline silicon carbide;
- the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;
- and
- an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

53.(New) A transistor comprising:

- a source region in a substrate;
- a drain region in the substrate;
- a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

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a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator;  
a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide; and  
wherein an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

54.(New) The transistor of claim 53 wherein:

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3 eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;  
and

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon.

55.(New) A memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

an insulator comprising a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by the insulator; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

56.(New) The memory cell of claim 55 wherein:

the insulator comprises amorphous silicon carbide;

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3

eV;

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the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

57.(New) A memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, the floating gate comprising a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

58.(New) The memory cell of claim 57 wherein:

the floating gate comprises polycrystalline or microcrystalline silicon carbide;

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3

eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

and

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

59.(New) A memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

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a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator;  
a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide; and  
wherein an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

60.(New) The memory cell of claim 59 wherein:

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3 eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;  
and

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon.

61.(New) A memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator being less than approximately 3.3 eV; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

62.(New) The memory cell of claim 61 wherein:

the barrier energy is less than approximately 2.0 eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and



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an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

63.(New) A memory device comprising:

a plurality of memory cells, each memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

an insulator comprising a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon

dioxide;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by the insulator; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the

intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

64.(New) The memory device of claim 63 wherein:

the insulator comprises amorphous silicon carbide;

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3

eV;

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than

polycrystalline silicon;

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region; and

the memory device further comprises:

a row decoder;

a column decoder;

a command and control circuit;

a voltage control circuit; and

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wherein the memory cells are arranged in an array.

65.(New) A memory device comprising:

a plurality of memory cells, each memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator being less than approximately 3.3 eV; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

66.(New) The memory device of claim 65 wherein:

the barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately

2.0 eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than

polycrystalline silicon; and

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

the memory device further comprises:

a row decoder;

a column decoder;

a command and control circuit;

a voltage control circuit; and

wherein the memory cells are arranged in an array.

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67.(New) A memory device comprising:

a plurality of memory cells, each memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;

a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator, the floating gate

comprising a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the

intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide.

68.(New) The memory device of claim 67 wherein:

the floating gate comprises polycrystalline or microcrystalline silicon carbide;

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3

eV;

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide;

an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate

dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

the memory device further comprises:

a row decoder;

a column decoder;

a command and control circuit;

a voltage control circuit; and

wherein the memory cells are arranged in an array.

69.(New) A memory device comprising:

a plurality of memory cells, each memory cell comprising:

a source region in a substrate;

a drain region in the substrate;

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a channel region in the substrate between the source region and the drain region;  
a floating gate separated from the channel region by an insulator;  
a control gate separated from the floating gate by an intergate dielectric, the intergate dielectric having a permittivity that is higher than a permittivity of silicon dioxide; and  
wherein an area of a capacitor formed by the control gate, the floating gate, and the intergate dielectric is larger than an area of a capacitor formed by the floating gate, the insulator, and the channel region.

70.(New) The memory device of claim 69 wherein:

a barrier energy between the floating gate and the insulator is less than approximately 3.3 eV;

the floating gate comprises a material that has a smaller electron affinity than polycrystalline silicon; and

the insulator comprises a material that has a larger electron affinity than silicon dioxide.

the memory device further comprises:

a row decoder;

a column decoder;

a command and control circuit;

a voltage control circuit; and

wherein the memory cells are arranged in an array.

71.(New) The memory device of claim 32, further comprising:

a row decoder;

a column decoder;

a command and control circuit;

a voltage control circuit; and

wherein the memory cells are arranged in an array.